

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/577,317	RUPP, VIKTOR	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Nicholas D. Rosen	3625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment of March 8, 2011.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 20-25,28-35 and 37-39.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
|---|--|

/Nicholas D. Rosen/
 Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3625

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 20-39 have been examined.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Tina Gonka on May 3, 2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 37, "The computer system in accordance with claim 36" is hereby amended to recite, "The computer system in accordance with claim 32".

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 20-25 and 28-31 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art of record, Gerhardt (U.S. Patent 7,376,599), discloses a computer-implemented method for providing spare parts for a client, comprising: receiving via user interfaces a plurality of spare part offers from a plurality of spare part suppliers; compiling the spare part offers into a spare part list; and storing the spare part list in a computerized database (Abstract; column 3, lines 1-50). Gerhardt at least implies receiving as part of

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an ordering process a search request for a spare part from a spare part client, and discloses displaying inventory information in different columns (e.g., Figure 2; column 4, lines 5-37), which could be interpreted as corresponding to different virtual spare part warehouses, with display of a spare part supplier's own inventory and inventory of other spare part suppliers (column 4, lines 30-37). Also, Purcell (U.S. Patent 6,601,043) teaches displaying a list of products from different vendors for a client (column 6, lines 29-48; column 7, lines 9-36 and 49-54). Gerhardt further discloses purchasing the spare part from the spare part supplier by the spare part client; and selling the spare part from the spare part supplier to the spare part client (column 5, lines 13-42). Processing payment and initiating delivery of ordered goods to a purchaser are well known.

Walker et al. (U.S. Patent 6,249,772) teaches a database of product and price information, and identifying a seller within a buyer's geographic and thus economic area (column 5, line 65, through column 6, line 14). However, neither Gerhardt, Walker, or any other prior art of record discloses a plurality of virtual spare part warehouses restricted by the specific economic area, and especially wherein the displayed results comprise a specific view that identifies which of the displayed results correspond to the spare part client's own inventory.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Claims 32-35, 37, and 38 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art of record, Gerhardt (U.S. Patent 7,376,599), discloses a computer system for providing spare parts for a client, comprising: a server database for storing a list of spare parts (Abstract; column 3, lines 1-50), by which first clients (sellers) can enter spare parts in the list (*ibid.*), and second clients (buyers) can select and order spare parts from the list (*ibid.*). Gerhardt does not expressly disclose first and second user interface modes for these purposes, but user interfaces for offering products and ordering them are well known.

Gerhardt at least implies receiving as part of an ordering process a search request for a spare part from a spare part client, and discloses displaying inventory information in different columns (e.g., Figure 2; column 4, lines 5-37), which could be interpreted as corresponding to different virtual spare part warehouses, with display of a spare part supplier's own inventory and inventory of other spare part suppliers (column 4, lines 30-37). Also, Purcell (U.S. Patent 6,601,043) teaches displaying a list of products from different vendors for a client (column 6, lines 29-48; column 7, lines 9-36 and 49-54). Gerhardt further discloses purchasing the spare part from the spare part supplier by the spare part client; and selling the spare part from the spare part supplier to the spare part client (column 5, lines 13-42). Processing payment and debiting buyers' accounts are well known.

Walker et al. (U.S. Patent 6,249,772) teaches a database of product and price information, and identifying a seller within a buyer's geographic and thus economic area (column 5, line 65, through column 6, line 14). However, neither Gerhardt, Walker, or any other prior art of record discloses a plurality of virtual spare part warehouses in accordance with a defined economic area in which the spare parts are offered, and especially wherein the displayed results, as a result of a search request, comprise a specific view that identifies which of the displayed results correspond to the spare part client's own inventory.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Claim 39 is allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art of record, Gerhardt (U.S. Patent 7,376,599), discloses a method for providing spare parts for a client, comprising: receiving spare part offers from a plurality of spare part suppliers; pooling the spare part offers into a spare part list; and storing the spare part list in a computerized database (Abstract; column 3, lines 1-50). Gerhardt does not disclose displaying the stored list for a spare part client, but Purcell teaches displaying a list of products from different vendors for a client (column 6, lines 29-48; column 7, lines 9-36 and 49-54), and further teaches selecting an item from the displayed list by the

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client (column 10, lines 23-43). Gerhardt at least implies receiving as part of an ordering process a search request for a spare part from a spare part client, and discloses displaying inventory information in different columns (e.g., Figure 2; column 4, lines 5-37), which could be interpreted as corresponding to different virtual spare part warehouses, with display of a spare part supplier's own inventory and inventory of other spare part suppliers (column 4, lines 30-37). Gerhardt further discloses purchasing the spare part from the spare part supplier by the spare part client; and selling the spare part from the spare part supplier to the spare part client (column 5, lines 13-42). Gerhardt further discloses electronic data exchange between supplier and client, and fulfillment of the purchase (column 5, lines 13-42), which implies executing an electronic sales contract between the spare part supplier and the spare part client; and arranging transportation of the purchased spare part from the spare part supplier to the spare part client (column 5, lines 32-35).

Walker et al. (U.S. Patent 6,249,772) teaches a database of product and price information, and identifying a seller within a buyer's geographic and thus economic area (column 5, line 65, through column 6, line 14). However, neither Gerhardt, Walker, or any other prior art of record discloses a plurality of virtual spare part warehouses restricted by the specific economic area of an offer, and especially wherein the displayed results, as a result of a search request, comprise a specific view that identifies which of the displayed results correspond to the spare part client's own inventory.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nicholas D. Rosen, whose telephone number is 571-272-6762. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM, M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Smith, can be reached on 571-272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Non-official/draft communications can be faxed to the examiner at 571-273-6762.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Nicholas D. Rosen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3625
May 3, 2011